

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**


By this amendment, the claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependencies. Claims 1-20 are pending. Examination on the merits of the instant application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Dated: October 31, 2003

By:

  
Susan A. Wolffe  
Registration No. 33,568

1001 G Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20001-4597  
Tel: (202) 824-3000  
Fax: (202) 824-3001

SAW:cd